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To the Education Appropriations Committee:

I have been lucky, since moving to Stratford, to have found Stratford Parents' Place. Since my twin daughters have been born, our family has expanded and staying at home has been a financial necessity in caring for them.

Stratford Parents' Place has allowed me to help socialize my daughters with other children their age without cost as well as provide valuable education for their development. The staff are professional, flexible, and kind. Most importantly, they care about our family and our children's successes. It takes a village to raise, support, and educate a child. It begins with a community coming together and realizing its value in helping with every child.

My daughter Lera, who is quite shy and hesitant in her interactions with others has blossomed a great deal since our weekly sessions at Stratford Parents' Place. Each time she enters the Stratford Parents' Place room she washes her hands, says hello to the staff, and finds a new activity to explore with others. She has found happiness and is working on socially growing. I have found staff who observe and watch her interactions to help me better support her growth.

I would be grateful for continued funding of Stratford Parents' Place since they are a part of our "village" and are making such a difference in our children's lives.

Sincerely,
Dinushka De Silva